the concerned countries and sectors thus identified, preferential access will end from 1st January 1996.

The impact of the EU's new GSP scheme on our exports will be moderated by the act that our principal competitors will be equally affected. The trade statistics for January 1995 show that our exports to EU during the period have increased substantially over the same period in 1994.

India-Mauritius joint business Council meeting

5095. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: -Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'a high level business 'team participated in the meeting organised by the India-Mauritius Joint Business Council in recent past at Port Louis;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether this joint meet will boost trade prospects of both the countries; and

(d) if so, details thereof and it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir- A high powered business delegation visited Mauritius to participate in the meeting of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Business Council on 18th and 19th April, '95 and to hold discussions on various issues connected with promoting Indo-Mauri-tius bilateral trade and investment oporbrtunities as well as to resolve bottlenecks.

(c) and (d) Based on the descus-sions concluded in the JBC meeting at Port Louis (Mauritius), it is expected that the trade volume between India and Mauritius would double by the end of 1996-97.

Market for leather products in EU countries

5096. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to. state:

(a) whether a huge market is available for leather products in European Union countries particularly Germany;

lb) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that Indian leather industry makes use of such market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The European Union countries account for approximately 40% global imports of leather products One of the leading countries amongst- these is Germany which accounts for about 15 per cent of the global imports.

(c) and (d) The European Union countries are major markets for exports of our leather and leather products. Efforts are being made to enhance our market share through participation in fairs, technical upgradation and encouraging joint ventures.

Heavy us tariff on Indian Steel

5097. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 836 given in the Rajya. Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heavy US traiff on Indian Steel" as reported in The Statesman' dated 6.2.95;